

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Yarmuth, Van Hollen, Pascrell, Castor, McDermott,
Lee, Pocan, Dingell, and Moulton

Importance of Raising the Minimum Wage

1. At the end of Title VI, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) The federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009.
- (2) The real value of the minimum wage today is at historically low levels.
- (3) Increasing the minimum wage would give a raise to millions of workers, and lift many Americans out of poverty.
- (4) Minimum wage workers bring home a large portion of their family's total income.
- (5) A higher minimum wage would put more money in the pockets of individuals who are likely to spend additional income. This would help expand the economy and create jobs.
- (6) In part because of this effect, recent studies have indicated that increases in the minimum wage do not adversely impact job creation as much as had been previously thought, and that modest increases in the minimum wage may actually create jobs.
- (7) A higher minimum wage will reduce government spending on Medicaid, public housing, nutrition assistance and other income-support programs that provide assistance to minimum wage workers.
- (8) A higher minimum wage will benefit businesses by increasing productivity, reducing absenteeism, and reducing turnover.
- (9) States are moving ahead absent congressional action. In 2010, after the federal wage last increased, 15 states – with 33 percent of the civilian labor force – had a higher state minimum wage than the federal rate. Now, 29 states

and DC have a higher minimum wage – covering 61 percent of the labor force.

(b) POLICY ON IMPORTANCE OF RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should enact an increase in the federal minimum wage to at least \$12 per hour.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution supports enactment of legislation to increase the federal minimum wage to at least \$12 per hour. The federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009 and is now at a historically low level in real terms. Increasing the minimum wage would give a raise to millions of workers, lifting many Americans out of poverty while also reducing government spending on income-support programs and benefitting the economy.